297. Opening of a sea-port at Vizhinjam.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar suggested that a port might be opened at Vizhinjam and the present canal from Vallakadavu to Thiruvallam extended to that place.

Reply.—Vizhinjam is a port at present, but the business transacted there is very meagre. The question of opening a road from the terminus of the water communication at the mouth of the Karamana river to Vizhinjam is under investigation.

298. Town fund.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer B. A., B. L. (T. I. C., Trivandrum) observed that the town fund had hitherto been entirely allotted by His Highness the Maha Rajah's Government. When some years back Trivandrum was constituted a municipality and its adminstration came to be conducted and controlled by a Regulation, Government began to contribute still more to the town fund. The original Regulation was amended in 1076 when a provision was inserted by which Government bound themselves to contribute in future not less than the minimum contributed in the year preceding. It was observed in regard to this provision by the late Mr. Thanu Pillai that, unlike the other service heads the annual allotments under which were increased or cut down according to the varying conditions of the finances, a statutory prohibition was imposed on Government from applying the shears on the town improvement grant under any circumstances while no maximum limit of allotment was fixed or even contemplated. Reading this provision in the letter and in the spirit, it certainly meant that, while the minimum limit could not be reduced, Government were expected to increase that limit in proportion to the growing requirements of the town. As a matter of fact, however, the minimum had been the maximum all these years and the promise of a boundless grant had yet to be fulfilled. The annual allotment now stood at Rs. 32,000, or Rs. 3,000 less than the contribution made 7 years ago. About Rs. 29,000 out of this amount was being spent on the establishment alone. Thus, it would be clear that the amount available for expenditure on sanitary improvements was small and had been gradually becoming smaller and smaller. The time had therefore come for Government to bestow their earnest

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